

## HISTORY

LAWRENCE COUNTY, Ky.

EXPLORATION. Gabriel Arthur, a Cherokee-Shawnee captive, is accredited with being the first white explorer to set foot on Kentucky soil and the first to traverse Eastern Kentucky. Historical research found that this almost unknown historical character crossed this part of the state in 1674. Probably the most notable of the early explorers of the Big Sandy Valley was Dr. Thomas Walker. It is said Dr. Walker gave the Big Sandy the name Louisa, June 7, 1750 in honor of Louisa, the wife of the Duke of Cumberland. To the early settlers of Lawrence County the river was known altogether as the Louisa River, afterwards the name was corrupted to Levisa. Other early explorers that traversed Eastern Kentucky land that now includes Lawrence County were Christopher Gist in 1751, Mrs. Mary Inglis, a Shawnee captive, in 1755 and Captain Harry Gordon 1776.

Louisa is historical and famous as being located on a 2,084 acre tract of land surveyed by George Washington. This is a choice bit of local history that, so far as the principal features are concerned, is grounded upon facts well substantiated by existing documents, yet it is the kind of local tradition that gives a feeling of native pride in its retelling and becomes more colorful with repetition. Among the records of the Filson Club in Louisville, Kentucky is the original parchment grant made in 1772 by the Crown of Great Britain to John Fry, subsequently of Mt. Sterling, to 2,084 acres of land located at the juncture of the Levisa and Tug forks of Big Sandy River comprising the present townsite of Louisa. On the reverse side of this old sheepskin Dunmore Fry grant, the following notations appear in bold script:

N 7	15 Dec 2	1772
John Fry	2084	Acres
	Fincastle	

Recorded

Examined

## I. L.

This is the earliest known document involving the legal partition of land in Kentucky. Since the initials G s W on the beginning cornerstone, a hickory tree that stood on the Johns' farm south of Louisa until a few years ago, was the same as mentioned in the grant; it is presumed that Washington surveyed the land including the present townsite of Louisa during those days in 1770 when he was traversing the upper waters of the Ohio and adjacent territory. Whether Washington or his designated assistant actually made this survey may never be known, yet Washington's personal interest in this Big Sandy tract of land was sufficient to cause him to copy in ink at some precious time this original survey as a plat together with the description. This presidential copy is in the manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The late F. T. D. Wallace is said to have rerun this Washington-Fry survey when he was a small boy and remembered seeing the corners all marked as described. On page 272 in Deed Book D of the Lawrence County Clerk's records this Fry survey at and near Louisa is recorded in the deed of John Vaughn to John See Feb. 21, 1839.

Founding of Kentucky. The first white settlement attempted in Lawrence County was opposite Louisa on "The Point" where Levisa and Tug forks converge. Charles Vancouver, of London England, came here with 10 men in February 1789 and built a blockhouse consisting of three cabins connected by palisades, following a grant of land made to him by King George III in 1772 and another grant in 1788 by Governor Randolph of Virginia. These grants included what is now Louisa and near by territory. The following year the Indians drove Vancouver's party from their block houses and left but a pile of ashes to mark the location. About 1792 Vancouver's Station was reestablished and a map printed in England about this date shows this settlement at the forks of the Great Sandy named Balclutha .

Kentucky was originally one county in the state of Virginia. There is an interesting tradition concerning how Kentucky gained all the territory

between the Levisa and Tug Rivers which includes part of Lawrence County. The boundary was given as Big Sandy River and Commissioners were selected to decide which fork of Levisa and Tug River was the main stream. These commissioners arrived at the designated point, where Louisa now stands, late in the day. Both forks had been falling in the valley. It was decided the boundary line should follow the largest stream and the commissioners were to designate the largest stream early the following morning. Throughout the night Tug Fork rose higher and higher, by morning it was a much larger stream than Levisa and the Commission decided the Kentucky-Virginia boundary should lie in the waters of Tug Fork. Tug is a steeper stream and headwater tides always reach Louisa in that fork ahead of Levisa. If the Commissioners had not departed before the slow rising tide of the Levisa reached the forks and thus plainly, <sup>showing the</sup> larger fork of the Big Sandy, a larger part of Lawrence County and the greater part of Big Sandy Valley would have remained a part of Virginia.

Louisa's first notable citizen was a trader, Fredrick Moore, who came from Pennsylvania in 1815, bought a large tract of land including what is now Louisa and Fort Gay, West Virginia, built a palatial home and a few years later became comparatively rich as a trader and merchant.

In 1822 Lawrence County was formed by uniting territory taken from Floyd and Greenup Counties. It was named to commemorate the fame of Captain James Lawrence, a distinguished naval commander whose last words in action were "Don't give up the ship". In 1822 Ed Burgess, Nimrod Canterbury, Lewis Wellman, Jim Wheeler, John Haws, Tom Tompson, John Stafford, and Isaac Bolt, Commissioners who were appointed by Governor Adair of Kentucky to form Lawrence County met in the house of Andrew Johnson which stood on the boundary line between Floyd and Greenup now Main Street in Louisa and established the county boundaries, formed a county court, located the county seat and ordered that the land for the county seat be cleared and a court house and jail erected.



Records in the court house here show that the commissioners located the county seat on the west bank of Big Sandy at the forks, considering this the most accessible location. The county court ordered the county seat be named Louisa. Tradition has it that the court members decided upon this name in honor of Louisa Ward, a daughter, born while the court was in session, of the county's first clerk, Joseph Ward. The spacious streets in Louisa and the symmetrical plan of the town for which it is now famous, were worked out more than a hundred years ago by John McConnell and Ruben Canterbury who were appointed for that purpose by the first county court. Their report as originally drawn is preserved in the court house here. It shows the town compose of 78 building lots of one fourth acre each, and 20 large business lots of one acre each with streets running symmetrically as they are now. Main and Madison Streets were to be 75 feet wide, all other streets 66 feet wide and the alleys 33 feet wide. The first court house was a two story wooden structure 30 x 35 feet with the court room occupying the first story and three office rooms the second story. The present brick court house was built about 1880.

HISTORY

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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Thomas - 1926 - Sandy Valley Publishing Company.

Land Adventures of George Washington, Jilison - 1934 Louisville

Big Sandy News Vol. XXXVII No. 52 Louisa, Kentucky

Lawrence County Deed Book A

Lawrence County Order Book 1

F. C. submitted to County School Superintendent, David Morris,  
Louisa, Kentucky, to be checked for accuracy.

## FOUNDING - EARLY SETTLEMENT

Type and Influence of Settlers. Lawrence County, as a part of the Big Sandy Valley, the war path and hunting ground of the red man, was won through many a bloody battle by a valorous group of hardy pioneer Englishmen. Virginia was settled by the rural people of England, who came voluntarily to America with a view to bettering their conditions as tillers of the soil. Lawrence County in turn was settled by this pioneer stock from Virginia and a portion of settlers from other states. Louisa, the County Seat, being situated at the forks of the Big Sandy River, was a meeting place for the westerward flow of immigration from the north and south. Pioneers came down the Ohio from Pennsylvania and New England and up the Big Sandy, while pioneers from Virginia and Carolina came over the mountains and down Big Sandy so that Louisa began to reflect a composite culture that stimulated its growth and lasted for many a generation. Louisa, being situated at the forks of the river was a trading center for the entire valley. In 1815 the first notable citizen Frederick Moore, brought a stock of merchandise from Philadelphia and started the first store or trading center in the valley. In 1822 he was granted the right to operate a ferry boat 30 feet long and 7 feet wide on Big Sandy with a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rate for man and horse.

Important personages. A number of Mr. Moore's descendants have been leaders and distinguished citizens of the county. Col. Laben T. Moore, his distinguished son, Col. Sam Savage a grand son and Rev. Dr. Frederick Shannon a great grandson, now of Chicago, has attained a place of international prominence being rated as one of the five most noted preachers of the world.

Early America. William Graves was the first sheriff of Lawrence Co. He was appointed in 1822 by the first court and gave a \$3,000. bond - the sheriff today gives \$100,000 bond. Other county officials appointed by the first court were Joseph Ward, Clerk, Lewis Rengesberry, jailor, John Haws and Ruben Canterbury surveyors, Andrew Chapman and Benjamin Canterbury Coroner, Jerimah Wellman and Wm



William Buchanan Com. of Revenue; this Court also divided the county into school and constable districts. The privilege of keeping a tavern was granted to Andrew Johnson and Lewis Rengesberry with the following price list: Good whiskey 12½¢ half pint, good cider 12½¢ quart, lodging 12½¢ per night, stable with rough food 25¢, oats and corn 12½¢ gallon. The clothing of the very earliest settlers consisted of articles of "homespun". The people lived on bear meat, vension, wild turkey and other game; corn meal grated or ground on hand mills, wild honey, maple syrup and sugar. Hog meat, beef, flour, and coffee came in later years along with red calico and "factory cloth". The first roads in the county were from Louisa through the mouth of George's Creek to the County line toward Prestonsburg and from the head of Hood's Creek on Blaine by way of the ridge to the Greenup County line. The first stage coach service from the Sandy Valley ran over the old Louisa to Guyandotte turnpike. Horseback was the first mode of travel, in 1825 and later about 1837 small steamboats carried red calico and "down the river bacon" from Louisa to the settlers up the river. The first attorneys admitted to the bar in Lawrence County were Thompson Ward, Robert Walker, Wm. Triplett and Samuel Seaton. The first newspaper in the county, "The Chattaroi News" was started in 1880. Next came the Lawrence County Index in 1883. About 50 years ago the Index was sold to Conley and Ferguson and the name changed to Big Sandy News. Modern machinery was gradually acquired until a first class plant was built up. This was the first weekly newspaper in Kentucky to install a linotype machine and altho the Big Sandy News has changed owners various times it has not failed to appear regularly every week since 1885.

Growth and Development. From the time the blockhouse was started by Vancouver in 1789 down to the sound formation of the county in 1822 and on through the years of more than a century Lawrence County and Louisa have grown, never amazingly, but always substantially to become a beautiful little town and a substantial county, peopled almost entirely by the scions of the hardy

Anglo Saxon founders, who content to remain here, find wholesome enjoyment in building socially, culturally and materially to their ideals of a town and county of contented homeowners. All along through the intervening period from 1822 to 1936 transportation facilities have improved, churches, banks, and schools have been established and various public and utility improvements made - the most notable ones being natural gas piped for general use in 1896, water works and sewage system installed in 1904, the bridge connecting Louisa with West Virginia was built in 1905, Riverview Hospital built in 1906. Since the paving of the streets in 1920 Louisa is said to be the best paved town of its size in Kentucky. The county now has state maintained highways and various roads under construction as W.P.A. Projects. Marked progress has been made in agriculture and the development of natural resources. Down through the years splendid residences and substantial business concerns have been built. The town of Louisa now has various industries and business concerns that reflect belief in the future of the town. According to income tax returns of 1933, twenty-two corporations and business concerns and 43 individuals filed income tax report. The economic situation in this county is the best since 1929, the total bonded indebtedness is \$264,000. On July 1, 1934 the assessment for county purposes was \$8,308,931. The County Road and Bridge Bonds are \$192,000. and other county bonds \$72,000. The anticipated income for fiscal year is \$85,814.12

Population. An examination of the figures of growth of the population of the county shows that in 1830 Lawrence County had 3,900 inhabitants and Louisa 87. With the opening of the Ohio as the main route of travel the population increased. In 1840 the population was 4,730; in 1850, 6,281; in 1860, 7,601 and in 1870, 8,497. In 1900 Lawrence County had a population of from 40 to 60 persons per square mile. From 1900 to 1930 the population migrated from farm lands to industrial centers so that the population declined 15%; in 1930 the county had from 0 to 40 persons per square mile or



16,713 inhabitants and Louisa 1,961.

Ethnology. The population of Lawrence County is 99<sup>+</sup>% native born white with less than 1% negro. The earliest settlers probably brought no slaves but later Virginia settlers brought slaves into the county so that in 1840 there were 77 negro slaves here. In 1860 the county had 146 slaves and 12 free negroes and 1870, 121 free negroes. The negro population decreased from 30 to 40% from 1900 to 1930.

Wars. William Elsey Connelley in his History of Kentucky said, "Whether at New Orleans under Jackson, at Lake Erie under Perry, at Kings Mountain under Shelby, under the battle fields of Mexico, in the Indian warfare of the Revolutionary times, or under George Roger Clark in opening up the north west territory or the great World War, the men of the Kentucky mountains have always shown that bravery under fire, that loyalty to their commander that true markmanship that have ever characterized the bravest of the people of any time or age". Some of the Revolutionary War Soldiers that were pensioners in 1840 from Lawrence County were David Atkinson, Wm. Bates, Edwayd Burgess, Wm. Brown, Gilbert Blumer, Wm. Cox, Basil Castle, Adam Crum, Joseph Davis, George Hardwick, Wm. Lyon, Samuel Lee, John Lastey, Josiah Marchm, John Marshal, James Norton, James Pratt, George Perkins, John Sexton, James Ward and Silas Wooten. The Mexican War veterans from the county were Charles Foster, John Brown and probably others. The Civil War battles in this county were March 12, 25 - 26, 1863 at Louisa, May 9 - 13, 1864 Expedition to Rockhouse and Aug. 27, 1863 Lawrence County Battle. Lawrence County had numerous inhabitants or citizens who came out of the Civil War colonels. Col. W. O. Johnson was given an appointment to West Point in 1887 and was the first white citizen from Lawrence County killed in action in the late World War - the American Legion Post here was named in his honor.

Lawrence County has furnished some prominent men to the state and nation in various fields cultural, industrial and political.

HISTORY  
LAWRENCE COUNTY

Mrs. Dan Carter

230

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Earl Kinner, Editor of Big Sandy News, Louisa, Kentucky  
Progress Report of State Planning Board

FOLKLORE

249

5

STORIES THAT TELL ABOUT STREAMS:

CATT'S FORK: Catts Fork one of the most extensive branches of Big Blaine Creek empties into Blaine just one mile below the famous Falls of Blaine. This stream derived its name from William S. Catt. When Kentucky was a country of Virginia, William S. Catt with a company of merchantmen often crossed this stream on his way from eastern Virginia to the old King Salt Works from where his caravans of pack horses carried all the salt to the east. Once a year, early in the Autumn these caravans would come down the west side of the Big Sandy River and a little south of the present town of Louisa, cross the mountain near the old "Spinkle" farm and up Catt to what is known as the "Winding Stair" near the head of the creek. At this point a large natural rock house or cave offers good protection from the weather and the salt traders made it a point to camp here and rest for several days. On one of these camping periods Mr. Catt fell ill with pneumonia and died and was buried on the hillside just south of the camp. His grave long since has been forgotten and no evidence marks the spot but the creek bears his name.



## FOLKLORE

240

During the old Indian days the Falls of Blaine was probably an Indian village and was such a picturesque place that it attracted the attention of white settlers. The Hutchinsons, Huletts, Repasses, Caseys and Cranks were among the earliest settlers. The blue waters of Blaine Creek furnished these early settlers with an abundance of fish and each family had a "pounding bowl," a wooden bowl made for the purpose of pounding meal from Indian corn for corn pone. As the settlement grew a progressive citizen conceived the idea of erecting a mill to grind the Indian corn into meal. So the millstones, now in use in the Fallsburg mill, were brought down the Ohio River from Fort Dequane on a floating craft to the mouth of Big Sandy, then up the Big Sandy to Fuller's Land-ing and hauled across the hill to the Falls of Blaine by two ox teams in an old sled. So the first mill in Lawrence County was started and widely patronized by settlers from all sections of the county. Today an 85 year old resident of Lawrence County recalls when this mill was first started. "When a lad of 12 years I would ride an old steer named Duke to the old water mill. This was during the Civil War. My father would put a three bushel sack of corn across old Dude and I would get on and ride down Newcomb, and across and down the Freelin Moore branch and on to Colt and over the hill to the falls, the heart of the country for bread meal."

When ask his age this old timer replied "I'll be 85 years old in April and I sometimes go to mill yet when I have corn to grind but I don't ride a steer as times these days are too fast for oxen." The original mill has been remodeled several times, but is still to this day grinding corn into meal.

As the village at the Falls of Blaine grew, a store was next erected as a trading center for the entire county, a postoffice was

FOLKLORE240

established, to the old corn mill was added a large flour mill and a new dam was constructed across Blaine Creek giving more and better power. A Large saw mill was erected and the little village became an important lumber center and developed into a prominent town incorporated under the name of "Fallsburg".

Fallsburg grew as the old ox team, two horse wagons and horse and buggy days came and went. Next came the Mayo Trail and the automobile to Fallsburg and as times changed the people changed. The town surrendered its charter and Fallsburg remains today only a wayside village.

## INDIAN GRAVES

Several miles from Louisa just off the Mayo Trail west from the river hills beyond the Hester Gap near the Bend of Blaine Creek and opposite the Yatesville School house is a section of country noted for its mound-like peaks. On the highest and most beautifully surrounded of these natural peaks may be seen an old Indian grave. This grave was excavated long before the Civil War by two citizens then living in the Yatesville neighborhood. Perry McCalister and Wiley McCalmick. Indians once roamed these wooded heights and along the lower banks of Blaine where game and fish were plentiful. The grave was circular and about seven feet deep and when opened three skeletons, three tomahawks, and five Indian pipes were found. Early citizens of the vicinity handed down the belief that the skeletons were re-buried in a lonely spot known only to the men who opened the grave. The burial place of the bones remains a mystery today for when the two men died the ~~secret~~ hiding place of the Indian bones passed away with them. The tomahawks and pipes

were kept as relics of the Indian days in the Yatesville neighborhood for ages but have finally disappeared. In early years only a few wild flowers grew where the dust was thrown from the interior of the grave but no growth whatsoever appeared inside the grave. But with the passing of time almost a century and a half the grave has practically filled up with fallen leaves and crumbling stones.

Many and strange are the tales told by the old people and early settlers of the weird and hideous sounds emanating from this particular hilltop whether true or not they served a purpose in keeping Bert and Al Carter and John Bentley, who were then small boys, from prowling around after night. The more adventurous boys of the neighborhood found this an ideal spot to dig for treasures and for ages people have visited the sacred spot where once slept the Indian braves.

John Bentley says an Indian grave that has never been excavated is located near Yatesville.

### RAVEN ROCK:

Morgan Creek is one of the navigable streams of Lawrence County. During the early settlement this entire section of the county was an unbroken forest in the Blaine Valley. As this region became settled by the Hughes, Newsomes, Adkins, Ekers and J. A. Morgan, from whom the creek derived its name, it ranked high in the production of lumber. Altho not navigable for boats, much timber, staves and cross ties were floated down Morgan Creek to Blaine Creek and into the Big Sandy down to market. Raven Rock is a natural curiosity in this section of the country that has attracted many sight-seers. This rock derived its name from the fact that the ravens once inhabited it by the thousands. Here the ravens



lived for many years until civilization finally drove them away. Raven Rock has many openings, the largest of these has been explored to a considerable distance, but the whole of the cave remains unexplored. Just what may be hidden in the cave no one knows. Curiosity has prompted several to explore the unknown region inside the large rock but fear has kept any one from venturing very far into the gloomy dark depths. Beside the Ravens the Indians (maybe the ones whose graves are nearby at Yatesville) are believed to have made their home in Raven Rock.

Peach Orchard in Lawrence County is not a hillside of fruit trees but the first mining town in the Big Sandy Valley.

When the peach orchard mining companies property was sold at auction, the real estate a boundary containing about 3,000 acres was bought by Phil Preece and Lewis Borders citizens of Lawrence County. Recently Mr. Preece became sole owner of this large boundary of valuable land most of which is covered with timber. About a year ago a large sawmill was set up on the boundary and since that time the output of lumber has been about 12,000 feet daily. About 50 men are employed at this mill and the fine poplar, oak and pine timber is making an excellent grade of lumber. This tract of timber land is bounded almost on each side by gas wells. A well on the north east edge produces 4,000,000 feet per day. With this boundary of fine timber surrounded by paying gas wells and with the great abundance of coal in the hills, a section so rich in natural resources may mean reestablishment of the town of Peach Orchard.

A Lawrence County woman should be in the Canadian Stork Derby. Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Lemaster wife of Charles E. Lemaster of the

Source: local interviews. . .

365  
Entering Louisa from the north on U. S. 23 the first interesting feature from a scenic standpoint is the view of the Big Sandy River with the Lock and Dam. This is the first movable dam built in the United States and is a French type needle dam. The business center of the town is reached by traveling south up Lock Avenue on which is located the Kentucky Tourists' Home, a typical Kentucky brick home of 75 years ago. After passing the Louisa General Hospital on Lock Avenue, follow Pike Street to Main Cross Street where the City Hall, Post office, banks, court house, Brunswick Hotel, Department Drug and Grocery Store are located. Various business houses are also located on Madison and Main Streets which intersect with Main Cross Street, Water Street running parallel with Main Cross was the original business street in Louisa. During those years when flat boats and steam boats on the Big Sandy was the chief mode of transportation, all the business houses were on Water Street next to the river. At that time the sloping land between Water Street and the river was laid with stone and it remains there today. The first brick store building erected by Frederick Moore still stands on Water Street today.

## Personal Observation

Big Sandy News Vol. XXXVII #52, 1922

L. E. Wallace, County Engineer, Louisa, Ky.

Starting from the corner of Main Cross and Madison Streets where the M. E. Church, South stands, follow U. S. 37 passing the Riverview Hospital erected in 1916 and the first one in Lawrence County, to the noted Louisa-Fort Gay Bridge. From this bridge an excellent view may be seen of ~~three~~ rivers, Tug, Levisa and Big Sandy. Near the center of the bridge, turn south and follow the Louisa-Inez road to the "Point" section-- this region derived its name from the fact that the land lies in a point between Tug and Levisa Rivers. *branches of R. S.*

## Personal Observation

Here the first settlement in Lawrence County consisting of 3 cabins and some pens made of logs, was made by Vancouver about the year 1790. Louisa Airport is now located here and is designated in the Air Port Directories of

## POINTS OF INTEREST

601-609

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

the United States as "Vancouver Port".

Neva V. Forrest, Social Service Worker,  
Louisa, Kentucky

The Salt Peter Dam on Tug River is another point of interest on the Louisa-Inez Road. On Madison Street visitors to Louisa note the large Bald Cypress tree growing in the center of the sidewalk in front of the old Burns home. This is said to be the only tree in the state and the second in the United States of this particular species.

Personal observation and Lucian Johnson, Louisa, Ky.



## LAWRENCE COUNTY

WPA

1. The Lawrence County Fair is sponsored annually by the W. O. Johnson Post 89 of the American Legion. This agricultural fair is always held in Louisa and this year it will be the last week of August.
2. The American Legion, through the cooperation of the business concerns, holds an annual 4th of July celebration in Louisa.
3. Annually on May 30, the American Legion holds memorial services at Pine Hill Cemetery.
4. 4-H Club Achievement Day is held in Louisa on the first Saturday in November.
5. The Lawrence County 4-H Club Camp is held each year at Fishtrap in Johnson County.
6. Under the auspices of the state and county health officers, Lawrence County Annual Child Health Day is the first week in May, usually on May 1, in Louisa. 111 Lawrence County children passed the five point health test and received blue ribbons at the Child Health Day Program, held here May 8. These children attained this ranking by passing a five point health test, namely good teeth, posture, throat, vision, and weight. These children were all Kindergarten and First Grade pupils.
7. On August 31 the Eastern Star Chapter of Louisa holds an annual picnic.
8. On Monday and Tuesday in July, before the rural school opens on Wednesday, a county wide teacher's meeting is held in Louisa.
9. On the 3rd Friday in September a County Field meet is held in Louisa, in which all the schools in the county take part.
10. Lawrence County has no county educational organizations, but for the last two years this county has had 100% membership in both K.E.A. and E.K.E.A.
11. An annual meeting is held at the Church of God Tabernacle, 2 miles east of Busseyville, on the Louisa-Sandy Hook Road. Luther Pigg

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

deeded this property to the Church of God with the reversionary clause that in case an annual meeting was not held this property was to revert back to to the heirs of Luther Pigg.

12. Each Free Will Baptist Church in Lawrence County holds an annual Foot Washing. No special date.

13. The Skaggs Family Reunion and the Hutchinson Family Reunion are annual events in LawrenceCounty.

Personal Observation

50

611. A distinctive type of architecture is not represented in Louisa and the county, but rather a crazy quilt of buildings constructed with thought of living conditions rather than architectural origins.

Personal observation.

Practically all the buildings here now were built after the Civil War many of them during the period of bad taste in architecture, 1870-1890.

Attorney W. M. Fulkerson, Louisa, Ky.

Louisa has a few homes resembling the "Picturesque" - the type of architecture so popular about 1890 and never definitely named. At the time these homes were built in Louisa they were no doubt called mansions with their ungainly bulk crowned with a "cupola". Although they are not classed as good architecture these homes have a certain charm of their own. In the crazy quilt of various styled buildings in this town and county good imitations of the Georgian Colonial, English Cottage, Dutch Colonial, Bungalow, Modern American Brick and Concrete Block type of homes are found.

Personal observation

The oldest frame house in Louisa is said to be the home of Harry Wellman on Franklin Street. This double log house was one of the earliest homes in Louisa, but has been remodeled and the double log structure incorporated in a newer frame building. The Brunswick Hotel likewise includes the old log Fulkerson home that stood on the corner of Main Cross and Madison Streets during the Civil War. The John Hays home located in the county at Charley is said to be approximately 100 years old and constructed of "home made" brick from that farm. The Burgess home located on U. S. 23 about 8 miles south of Louisa is also said to have been built of stone over a hundred years ago and according to local tradition on this Burgess farm in a small rural cemetery a half sister of Henry Clay is buried. A number of farm houses in this vicinity date back to the middle of the 19th century, however, most of the original log structures have been remodeled into frame farm houses with a double porch so



characteristic of Kentucky architecture. Some of the farm houses that contain the original log structure that antedate the Civil War by many years are the Andy Webb Still House on Catt Creek, the Morris home on Big Branch and the Sweatman home at Blaine.

David Morris, Co. Supt. of Schools

The Louisa Public School building erected in 1888, part of the present M. E. Church erected prior to the Civil War, the City Hall, Louisa High School 1908 were all no doubt soundly enough built structurally, but poorly designed and of no distinct type of architecture. The M. E. Church, South erected in 1916, with its four columns and stained glass windows may have been designed in adaption of a distinctive architectural type.

Big Sandy News Vol. 37 #52 1922  
Personal observation

612. The only old home in Louisa that stands today facing the river is located on Sycamore Street. This old brick house is typical of colonial architecture and was built prior to 1840. This is the original home of Benjamin Burk and Nancy Fulkerson Burk who died there in 1841. The place was later owned in turn by the Pagues, Marcums, Capt. Freeze and others. At the present time L. K. Vinson resides in this old colonial home which looks very much as it did a hundred years ago except that the massive stone steps leading to the river and the brick stone houses that stood near by have since been torn away.

Attorney W. M. Fulkerson, Louisa, Kentucky

3x5 ✓

Peach Orchard, Lawrence Co.  
Ky.

MELLENSBURG, KY.

"For long years it had been known that there was coal in abundance in the Big Sandy Valley of Kentucky. The first white man in the valley could not have failed to have seen coal, for outcrops of seams fully exposed were frequent along the cliffs and steep hillsides bordering the Big Sandy River. As early as 1845 mines had been opened to supply river steamboats with coal, the boats having found it a fuel superior to the wood they had previously used.

"The story of the development of the famous Millers Creek Block coal at Van Lear begins in 1847 when George Carlisle, R. B. Bowler, and other capitalists of Cincinnati formed the Peach Orchard Coal Company having property nearly twenty-five miles below Van Lear. These men purchased 2,000 acres of land from Judge Archibald Borders, the first judge of Lawrence County, Kentucky, and employed William B. Mellen, a mining man of wide experience and exceptional ability, to develop the field.

"Mr. Mellen immediately started construction work on houses, store buildings, churches, a school house, and sawmill, gristmill and carding plant. By 1850 there had sprung up around the operation a fair sized town which town was later named Mellensburg in honor of the man who contributed so much to its growth. Mr. Mellen remained with the company until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he, with several others in the neighborhood, joined the army, never to return."

-- History of the Consolidation Coal Company  
1864 - 1934 pg. 54

Compiled by Charles E. Beachley, Secretary  
Pub. New York, 1934.

Sent by Evelyn Jackson (8/19/71)

sent 2/27/79 3 x 5 ✓  
From Big Sandy Skaggs by Lucille Sparks Edwards  
506 Greely Chapel Road  
Lima, Ohio 45804

- ✓ Briggs (or Brig) post office was situated on the head of Blaine Creek located on property known as the Noah Skaggs farm. This post office was operated by one Millard Fyffe who married Laura Ferguson Fyffe, daughter of William Ambrose Ferguson. This post office was ~~operated~~ in operation at the same time Terryville post office was in operation farther down the Blaine Creek.
- ✓ Terryville post office: Nancy Skaggs and husband, Miles Terry were the pioneers for whom the post office at Terryville, Ky. (Head of Blaine) was named. Terryville was not a town, but a community of homes and two country stores along with a steam mill founded by Amos Skaggs, Nancy's cousin.

The following paragraph follows the above paragraph on Briggs (or Brig)  
Terryville post office was on the Lloyd Hamilton farm. Samuel Terry, son of Sarah Ann Hannah and John Terry, was the postmaster at Terryville where he also operated a country store at the same time.

The information which follows on the Estep post office was supplied by a grandson of Harrison Estep, Robert B. Fearing  
2408 Adams Ave.  
Ashland, Ky. 41101

- ✓ Estep post office was located 4 or 5 miles south of the Boyd Co. line in Lawrence County on State Route 3. The post office was established approximately 1880. (For exact date write Mr. Fearing) He said he had the exact date.  
(m) Harrison Estep, son of Shadrack(sp.) Estep was the only postmaster. Harrison Estep also ran a grocery store.

The following information was given by Woodrow Graham  
Tel. 652-3417 Cherokee, Ky.

- ✓ Sacred Wind post office was located at head of left fork of Caines Creek.
- ✓ Hannah post office was established on Caines Creek, below Sacred Wind. This post office was named for Hannah Boggs. (Woodrow said that Lowell Edwards of Blaine, Kentucky, might know more about Hannah Boggs. Nova Wellman at Louisa, Kentucky might have information on Hannah Boggs. )
- ✓ Edsel post office was located at the head of the right fork of Caines Creek.
- ✓ Cherokee post office was named for the Cherokee Indians. (Perhaps you have researched this. I haven't.)
- ✓ Houckville post office, at the head of Cherokee Creek, was named for John Houck, son of Sam Houck.

✓ Jean post office was located on Dry Fork.

✓ Orr post office was also on Dry Fork.

✓ Overda post office was located on the right fork of Cooksey.

✓ Compton post office was also on the right fork of Cooksey.

✓ Tuscola, named for an Indian, was about Spring Creek.

✓ Osie was on Twin Branch. May have been named for Osie Spillman.

✓ Christmas was on Twin Branch.

✓ Irad was located on Blaine Creek, a few miles below Daniels Creek, and a few miles above Carter Bridge which spanned the Blaine Creek. The last postmaster was probably Ulysses Prince.

Glo, the story goes that this post office was named for Gloristeen (sp.) Spillman.

Providence was at the mouth of Rich Creek. Sam Berry or Wert Berry had a store there.

This concludes the Woodrow Graham information.

✓ Prosperity was located on Blaine Creek between Adams and Blaine, on what is now State Rte. 32. Noah Wellman family were probably the only postmasters. A grandson, Leonard Gussler with present post-office of Adams lives on almost the exact site of the old post-office.

✓ Adams was probably named for James Adams, a postmaster there, his son, Monroe Adams succeeded him. Monroe's nephew, Roy Thompson, followed, and Earl Cook is the present postmaster.

✓ Busseyville was probably named for the Mont Bussey family.



LAWRENCE COUNTY

Marriage records: When did Mattie Chaffin marry Harrison McKinster. When (or did she) marry a Moore? And who was he?

Check on Adams family for a Jattie Adams. Where? Who was her father? Did he ever run the Jattie p.o.?

Prince family: for Ulysses. Any Ethel (ca. 1890)

Any connection betw. Vessie McClure (1881-1904), d. of Robt. Crooks McClure and the po of Vessie, est. 5/14/1890 with Thos. L. Barrett, pm?

Any connection betw. Wm. R. Crabtree<sup>x</sup> and Nolda Moore (nee Dec. 1892), daughter of Thos. and Trinie Moore of Little Blaine Prec?

✓ Lawrence Co. families: files and books

*\*gledys po (1909)*

1860 and 1870 Censuses: for Jacob Lockwood (1810-?) nr. where and whom?

Check in 1870 and 1880 Censuses if Vincent Hutchison had a daughter named Emma?

1900 Census: Daniel L. Pigg: did he have a daughter Ivory? Did she later marry Henry W. Bussey? Where did they live?

*no.*

*no*

1991 history: Ulysses Prince. Any Ethel (1890)?

Daniel Pigg for Ivory? *no*

Wood family

Jattie Adams, daughter of whom? *NEZ*

Steuben Graham and wife Nona *not from Mich.*

Did Jennie Burgess have a daughter named Ellen? *OK*

Could Glenwood have been named for Glenna Wood, daughter of local preacher?

Check on Steuben Graham who had a big store at Tuscola? His wife had a millinery shop there. Did they come from Michigan? *no, from Ky.*

Check on a Berry genealogy for Ellen Hughes. *none*

1900 Census (1910 too): for Jennie Burgess, sister or Geo. & Alva). Did she have a daughter named Ellen?

✓ Lawrence Co. map(s): Rockhill Marketing--Welcome to Louisa and Law. Co. (UK has this: G3954.L69/1992/.R6)

Ely for Wm. Chapman (P. 192) and the Vinsons (P. 156)

Law. Co. death records: when did Wesley Thos. Moore (husband of Ledocio) die? Did she marry again in 1877 to Thos. Stewart?

*no*

*man. records*